

# AB078. SOH21AS066. Student perception of virtual surgical bedside tutorials during coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): a randomised control trial

Aoife Feeley, Iain Feeley, Aisling Carroll, Dermot Hehir

Department of Orthopaedics, Midlands Regional Hospital Tullamore, Tullamore, Ireland

**Background:** The social distancing recommendations from the WHO during the pandemic has resulted in a pivot point in the delivery of medical education. With the medical student clinical experience constantly under threat; novel methods to maintain adequate surgical patient exposure and student interaction on a platform amenable to the interactive format required was devised using a virtual platform to compliment current pedagogical approaches.

**Methods:** A parallel randomised control trial evaluated the perceived use of remote learning in place of bedside teaching. Participants were randomised to undergo surgical bedside teaching in person or virtually. Feedback questionnaires and exit interviews carried out following each session. Content analysis of transcripts was performed to evaluate the presence and quality of perceived learning, benefits and limitations to each modality.

**Results:** A marked preference for in-person surgical bedside tutorials was demonstrated. Feedback demonstrated greater engagement, satisfaction, involvement and learning ( $P < 0.001$ ) in the bedside group. Content analysis yielded three main themes; Technological, Interpersonal Component, Provision of Content. Participants in the virtual group reported a limited ability to elicit clinically relevant findings in surgical patients. Students however

reported the virtual teaching was an acceptable alternative in the current climate of reduced patient access.

**Conclusions:** The current pandemic poses challenges to adequate student-patient exposure. Delivering surgical bedside teaching remotely is a viable alternative to groups of students congregating in the current climate of reduced clinical access, however bedside teaching remains the preferred method of learning.

**Keywords:** Clinical based teaching; qualitative analysis; surgical curriculum; student perspectives; undergraduate education

## Acknowledgments

*Funding:* None.

## Footnote

*Conflicts of Interest:* The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

*Ethical Statement:* The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

*Open Access Statement:* This is an Open Access article distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0), which permits the non-commercial replication and distribution of the article with the strict proviso that no changes or edits are made and the original work is properly cited (including links to both the formal publication through the relevant DOI and the license). See: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>.

doi: 10.21037/map-21-ab078

**Cite this abstract as:** Feeley A, Feeley I, Carroll A, Hehir D. Student perception of virtual surgical bedside tutorials during coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): a randomised control trial. *Mesentery Peritoneum* 2021;5:AB078.